Agenda Item#3

RECEIVED APR 22 2010 Maine Ethics Commission

MATTHEW BOUCHER FOR HOUSE DISTRICT #38 428 Bangor Road Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Commission on Governmental Ethics April 22, 2010 and Election Practices
45 Memorial Circle
Augusta, Maine 04330

Re: Clean Election Funding Status

Dear Commissioners:

On April 20th, I had collected 66 checks and signatures for certification by the municipalities believing that each and every one was valid and was ready for certification and submission on April 21st.

However, a new clerk in Ellsworth improperly failed to certify an unusually large number (more than six) of my signature. I panicked and went immediately to collect more signatures and checks. On the way, I checked the so-called "failed-to-certify" people and realized that the clerk had made a mistake and that they were, in fact, qualified registered voters. I went back to city hall and, after some effort, was able to correct a number of the unqualified to qualified. This took some time and I started for Augusta.

I called Gavin (for District 28) and left a message that I was might be late due to the snafu. When I arrived, Gavin told me that he had received my message. I had also called Jacqueline Spofford, who was at the commission. She asked the staff if there was going to a problem if I was late. She was told it would be okay and then she called me and told me.

Accordingly, I did not get anxious through the several road construction stops on Route 1A and did not speed down the interstate to August to make sure that I got there before 5 pm. But I didn't take time to socialize or get anything to eat either. I arrived at 5:30 pm. I knocked on the door and was admitted. I met with Gavin and submitted my paperwork. Then I met with Gavin and his supervisor who told that I would have explain the circumstance in writing by 1 pm on Thursday, April 23, 2010 so that the Commission could approve my submission due to the circumstances.

Thank you. If further information is necessary, I am available to meet with the commission.

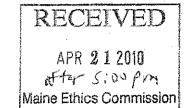
Sincerely,

Matthew Boucher, Candidate

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2010 Election Year





Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine

Website: www.maine.gov/ethics

Phone: 207-287-4179 Fax: 207-287-6775

2010 REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION As a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate for the Legislature

-265 | 16 | Company electric Blocks | 18 | Delta Eccicianve Campidates April 21, 2010 by 5:00 p.m. CANDIDATE'S NAME: Matthew J. Boucher OFFICE SOUGHT: Representative DISTRICT #38 PARTY: Republican I hereby request to be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate. I agree to comply with all requirements of the Act and the Commission's rules. I have: signed and filed a Declaration of Intent to participate in the Maine Clean Election Act; qualified as a candidate by petition or other means (confirmed by Secretary of State's Office); complied with seed money restrictions and otherwise met the requirements for participation in the Maine Clean Election Act: read the Commission's guidelines on permissible campaign-related expenditures: established a separate campaign account in a financial institution; and if applicable, any person who circulated my Receipt and Acknowledgement forms and collected qualifying contributions did so with my knowledge and consent. With this Request for Certification, I have submitted (please check the appropriate boxes): at least the minimum number of qualifying contributions. I have submitted ___ qualifying contributions, which is the total collected on Receipt and Acknowledgement forms and on the Commission's website. for contributions made by check and money order, the original Receipt and Acknowledgement forms verified by the municipal clerks with the checks or money orders attached to the appropriate forms, in the order that the contributions are listed on the forms. for contributions made by credit or debit card on the Commission's website that were not verified by the online system, the printed Receipt and Acknowledgement forms verified by the municipal clerks. an alphabetical list of all qualifying contributors, which includes their towns and cities. a seed money campaign finance report filed electronically. (If no seed money was raised or spent, a "no activity report" must be filed. If you requested an electronic filing waiver, submit the completed paper report signed by you and your treasurer.) Request for Extension. A candidate may request an extension of time to file the seed money report and the alphabetical list. The deadline for submitting the qualifying contributions and receipt and acknowledgement forms cannot be extended. I request an extension of time to file the following: List of Contributors ☑ Seed Money Report



QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CANDIDATE'S NAME: MAHARU JOMES BOUCHE

OFFICE: DIGOVERNOR 124HOUSE DISTRICT# 5/2/ (Please other) box above)

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333 207-287-4179 www.maine.gov/ethics

ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF: F1/S1,xの合わ

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CANDIDATE'S NAME:

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SENATE DISTRICT# 32 (Please check box above) D GOVERNOR DAYOUSE OFFICE

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

207-287-4179 www.maine.gov/ethics

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Signature of Registrar.

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Mailing Addres: Same as above

Phone #: **243**

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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 207-287-4179 www.maine.gov/ethics

CANDIDATE'S NAME: Mathrew TOMES BOOCHN

OFFICE: [] GOVERNOR UPHOUSE | SENATE DISTRICT # SENATE DISTRICT #

ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF: (を以らい。(され)

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS:

- Vour signature and gualifying contribution of \$5 or more will help the candidate named above to be aligible for public funding from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
- By signing below, you affirm that you have used your personal funds to make this contribution and that you have received nothing of value in exchange for your signafure and contribution.

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I have verified that _____ contributors circled above are registered to vote in the electoral division of the candidate.

Signature of Registrar

Date:

Residential Address: Mailing Address:

Circulators: You must complete and sign the statement below for the contributions collected on this form to be accepted by the Commission. This section does not apply to candidates.

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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES

ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF: Elsworth

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- Your signature and qualifying contribution of \$5 or more will help the candidate named above to be eligible for public funding from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
- By signing below, you affirm that you have used your personal funds to make this contribution and that you have received nothing of value in exchange for your signature and contribution.

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Date:

Circulators: You must complete and sign the statement below for the contributions collected on this form to be accepted by the Commission. This section does not apply to candidates.

(Print name) affirm that: (1) I collected the qualifying contributions, (2) the contributor signed this form in my presence. (3) to the best of my knowledge and belief, the signature is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be, (4) the contribution came from the personal funds of the contributor. (5) I did not give anything of value to the contribution in exchange for their contribution and signature, and (6) I did not represent the purpose of collecting the contributions and signatures to be for any purpose other than obtaining public funds to finance the candidate's campaign. Date: Signature of Circulator:
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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 207-287-4179

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COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES

ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF: Ellswarty

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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

www.maine.gov/ethics

SENATE DISTRICT # 38

OFFICE:

GOVERNOR

(Please check box above)

JONNER BOSCHEY CANDIDATE'S NAME: ////d/f/h/20/

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ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF:

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COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

OFFICE: \Box GOVERNOR \Box HOUSE \Box SENATE DISTRICT # $\Diamond eta$

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207-287-4179 www.maine.gov/ethics

QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CANDIDATE'S NAME: MATTHEW BOUCHER

ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF:

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- Your signature and qualifying contribution of \$5 or note will help the candidate named above to be eligible for public funding from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
- By signing below, you affirm that you have used your personal funds to make this contribution and that you have received nothing of value in exchange for your signature and contribution.

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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CANDIDATE'S NAME: Mathew James Boucher

DISTRICT # 38 ☐ SENATE (Please check box above) D GOVERNOR DA HOUSE OFFICE:

Augusta, ME 04333 207-287-4179 www.maine.gov/ethics

135 State House Station

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES

Trenton ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF: _

- our signature and qualifying contribution of \$5 or more will help the candidate named above to be eligible for public funding from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SENATE DISTRICT# 38 OR EMMOUSE [] (Please check box above) OFFICE: I GOVERNOR MAHOUSE

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

207-287-4179 www.maine.gov/ethics

ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF.

CANDIDATE'S NAME: Matthew James Boscha

- Your signature and qualifying contribution of \$5 or more will help the candidate named eligible for public funcing from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
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Maine CLEAN ELECTION ACT

QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CANDIDATE'S NAME: MATHEW JAMES BOUCHEC

SENATE DISTRICT # 38 (Please check box above) OFFICE: II GOVERNOR M'HOUSE

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

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<u></u>	4-6-10 4269	4269	Matthew James Boucher	428 Bangar rd	Mother TCB

Please make checks and money orders payable to Maine Clean Election Fund. Money orders must be signed by the contributors. Falsifying any information on this form is punishable by law.

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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CANDIDATE'S NAME: MAHMOW JOMES BOYCHES

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OFFICE	

135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

207-287-4179 www.maine.gov/ethics

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES

ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF: Ellsworth

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- Your signature and qualifying contribution of \$5 or more will help the candidate named above to be eligible for miblic funding from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
- By signing below, you affirm that you have used your personal funds to make this contribution and that you have received nothing of value in exchange for your signature and contribution.

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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CANDIDATE'S NAME: MAHMAU JONNES BOUCKS

D SENATE DISTRICT # 38 (Please check box above) OFFICE: I GOVERNOR IN HOUSE

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333 207-287-4179 www.maine.gov/ethics

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- Your signature and qualifying contribution of \$5 or more will help the candidate named above to be eligible for public funding from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CANDIDATE'S NAME: MATHROW SAMPS & CECEIPT AND AC

OFFICE: [] GOVERNOR ID/HOUSE [

Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices 135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 207-287-4179

www.maine.gov/ethics

ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF: F(KNO) CHY

MIRCRITANT NOTICE TO CONTINEUTORSE

- Your signature and qualifying contribution of \$5 or more will help the candidate named above to be eligible for public funding from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
- By signing below, you affirm that you have used your personal funds to make this contribution and that you have received nothing of value in exchange for your signature and contribution.

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QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS - RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CANDIDATE'S NAME: MATINEW JUMES BOUCHER

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COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES 135 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

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ENATE DISTRICT # 38

Ellsworth ALL CONTRIBUTORS MUST BE FROM THE TOWN OR CITY OF:

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- Your signature and qualifying contribution of \$5 or more will help the candidate named above to be eligible for public funding from the State to pay for the candidate's campaign.
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CHAPTER 14

THE MAINE CLEAN ELECTION ACT

21A § 1121. Short title

This chapter may be known and cited as the "Maine Clean Election Act."

21A § 1122. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- 1. Certified candidate. "Certified candidate" means a candidate running for Governor, State Senator or State Representative who chooses to participate in the Maine Clean Election Act and who is certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate under section 1125, subsection 5.
- **2. Commission.** "Commission" means the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices established by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 33.
 - 3. Contribution. "Contribution" has the same meaning as in section 1012, subsection 2.
 - 4. Fund, "Fund" means the Maine Clean Election Fund established in section 1124.
- **4-A.** Immediate Family. "Immediate family" has the same meaning as in section 1, subsection 20 and includes a candidate's domestic partner and the immediate family of the candidate's domestic partner.
- 5. Nonparticipating candidate. "Nonparticipating candidate" means a candidate running for Governor, State Senator or State Representative who does not choose to participate in the Maine Clean Election Act and who is not seeking to be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate under section 1125, subsection 5.
- **6. Participating candidate.** "Participating candidate" means a candidate who is running for Governor, State Senator or State Representative who is seeking to be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate under section 1125, subsection 5.
 - 7. Qualifying contribution. "Qualifying contribution" means a donation:
 - A. Of \$5 or more in the form of a check or a money order payable to the fund and signed by the contributor in support of a candidate or made over the Internet in support of a candidate according to the procedure established by the commission;
 - B. Made by a registered voter within the electoral division for the office a candidate is seeking and whose voter registration has been verified according to procedures established by the commission;
 - C. Made during the designated qualifying period; and
 - D. That the contributor acknowledges was made with the contributor's personal funds and in support of the candidate and was not given in exchange for anything of value and that the candidate acknowledges was obtained with the candidate's knowledge and

approval and that nothing of value was given in exchange for the contribution, on forms provided by the commission.

- 8. Qualifying period. "Qualifying period" means the following.
 - A. For a gubernatorial participating candidate, the qualifying period begins October 15th immediately preceding the election year and ends at 5:00 p.m. on April 1st of the election year.
 - B. For State Senate or State House of Representatives participating candidates, the qualifying period begins January 1st of the election year and ends at 5:00 p.m. on April 20th of that election year or the next business day following April 20th if the office of the commission is closed on April 20th.
- 9. Seed money contribution. "Seed money contribution" means a contribution of no more than \$100 per individual made to a participating candidate, including the candidate or the candidate's spouse or domestic partner.

21A § 1123. Alternative campaign financing option

This chapter establishes an alternative campaign financing option available to candidates running for Governor, State Senator and State Representative. This alternative campaign financing option is available to candidates for elections to be held beginning in the year 2000. The commission shall administer this Act and the fund. Candidates participating in the Maine Clean Election Act must also comply with all other applicable election and campaign laws and regulations.

21A § 1124. The Maine Clean Election Fund established; sources of funding

- 1. Established. The Maine Clean Election Fund is established to finance the election campaigns of certified Maine Clean Election Act candidates running for Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to pay administrative and enforcement costs of the commission related to this Act. The fund is a special, dedicated, nonlapsing fund and any interest generated by the fund is credited to the fund. The commission shall administer the fund.
 - 2. Sources of funding. The following must be deposited in the fund:
 - A. The qualifying contributions required under section 1125 when those contributions are submitted to the commission;
 - B. Two million dollars of the revenues from the taxes imposed under Title 36, Parts 3 and 8 and credited to the General Fund, transferred to the fund by the Treasurer of State on or before January 1st of each year, beginning January 1, 1999. These revenues must be offset in an equitable manner by an equivalent reduction within the administrative divisions of the legislative branch and executive branch agencies. This section may not affect the funds distributed to the Local Government Fund under Title 30-A, section 5681.



- C. Revenue from a tax check off program allowing a resident of the State who files a tax return with the State Tax Assessor to designate that \$3 be paid into the fund. If a husband and wife file a joint return, each spouse may designate that \$3 be paid. The State Tax Assessor shall report annually the amounts designated for the fund to the State Controller, who shall transfer that amount to the fund;
- D. Seed money contributions remaining unspent after a candidate has been certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate;
- E. Fund revenues that were distributed to a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and that remain unspent after the candidate has lost a primary election or after all general elections:
- F. Other unspent fund revenues distributed to any Maine Clean Election Act candidate who does not remain a candidate throughout a primary or general election cycle;
- G. Voluntary donations made directly to the fund; and
- H. Fines collected under section 1020-A, subsection 4 and section 1127.
- 3. Determination of fund amount. If the commission determines that the fund will not have sufficient revenues to cover the likely demand for funds from the Maine Clean Election Fund in an upcoming election by January 1st, the commission shall provide a report of its projections of the balances in the Maine Clean Election Fund to the Legislature and the Governor. The commission may submit legislation to request additional funding or an advance on revenues to be transferred pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph B.

21A § 1125. Terms of participation

- 1. Declaration of intent. A participating candidate must file a declaration of intent to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and to comply with the requirements of this chapter. The declaration of intent must be filed with the commission prior to or during the qualifying period, except as provided in subsection 11, according to forms and procedures developed by the commission. A participating candidate must submit a declaration of intent within 5 business days of collecting qualifying contributions under this chapter. Qualifying contributions collected before the declaration of intent has been filed will not be counted toward the eligibility requirement in subsection 3.
- 2. Contribution limits for participating candidates. Subsequent to becoming a candidate as defined by section 1, subsection 5 and prior to certification, a participating candidate may not accept contributions, except for seed money contributions. A participating candidate must limit the candidate's total seed money contributions to the following amounts:
 - A. Two hundred thousand dollars for a gubernatorial candidate;
 - B. One thousand five hundred dollars for a candidate for the State Senate; or
 - C. Five hundred dollars for a candidate for the State House of Representatives.

The commission may, by rule, revise these amounts to ensure the effective implementation of this chapter.

- **2-A.** Seed money restrictions. To be eligible for certification, a participating candidate may collect and spend only seed money contributions subsequent to becoming a candidate and prior to certification. A participating candidate may not solicit, accept or collect seed money contributions after certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.
 - A. All goods and services received prior to certification must be paid for with seed money contributions, except for goods and services that are excluded from the definition of contribution in section 1012, subsection 2, paragraph B. It is a violation of this chapter for a participating candidate to use fund revenues received after certification to pay for goods and services received prior to certification.
 - B. Prior to certification, a participating candidate may obligate an amount greater than the seed money collected, but may only receive that portion of goods and services that has been paid for or will be paid for with seed money. A participating candidate who has accepted contributions or made expenditures that do not comply with the seed money restrictions under this chapter may petition the commission to remain eligible for certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate in accordance with rules of the commission, if the failure to comply was unintentional and does not constitute a significant infraction of these restrictions.
 - C. Upon requesting certification, a participating candidate shall file a report of all seed money contributions and expenditures. If the candidate is certified, any unspent seed money will be deducted from the amount distributed to the candidate as provided in subsection 8.
- 2-B. Seed money required for gubernatorial candidates; documentation. For seed money contributions that a candidate for Governor collects to satisfy the requirement in subsection 5, paragraph C-1, the candidate shall obtain the contributor's name, residence address, mailing address, telephone number if provided by the contributor and other information required for reporting under section 1017, subsection 5. For these contributions, the candidate shall submit to the commission during the qualifying period:
 - A. A contribution acknowledgment form as determined by the commission, to be completed by each person that contributes seed money, that includes the name, residence address, mailing address, optional telephone number and signature of the person making the seed money contribution acknowledging that the contribution was made with the person's personal funds and will not be reimbursed by any source;
 - B. A list of the seed money contributions in a format determined by the commission that includes the name and mailing address of the contributor;
 - C. For seed money contributions received by check or money order, photocopies of the check or money order; and
 - D. For seed money contributions received by debit or credit card, a bank or merchant account statement that contains the cardholder's name and that otherwise meets the requirements specified by the commission in order to verify compliance with subsection 5, paragraph C-1.

The commission may permit the submission of an online or electronic acknowledgment form as required by paragraph A for seed money contributions made via the Internet.

- **3. Qualifying contributions.** Participating candidates must obtain qualifying contributions during the qualifying period as follows:
 - A. For a gubernatorial candidate, at least 3,250 verified registered voters of this State must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate;
 - B. For a candidate for the State Senate, at least 175 verified registered voters from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate; or
 - C. For a candidate for the State House of Representatives, at least 60 verified registered voters from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate.

A payment, gift or anything of value may not be given in exchange for a qualifying contribution. A candidate may pay the fee for a money order that is a qualifying contribution in the amount of \$5 as long as the donor making the qualifying contribution pays the \$5 amount reflected on the money order. Any money order fees paid by a participating candidate must be paid for with seed money and reported in accordance with commission rules. A money order must be signed by the contributor to be a valid qualifying contribution. The commission may establish by routine technical rule, adopted in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, a procedure for a qualifying contribution to be made by a credit or debit transaction and by electronic funds transfer over the Internet. Records containing information provided by individuals who have made qualifying contributions over the Internet are confidential, except for the name of the individual making the contribution, the date of the contribution, the individual's residential address and the name and office sought of the candidate in whose support the contribution was made.

It is a violation of this chapter for a participating candidate or an agent of the participating candidate to misrepresent the purpose of soliciting qualifying contributions and obtaining the contributor's signed acknowledgment.

- **4. Filing with commission.** A participating candidate must submit qualifying contributions, receipts and acknowledgment forms, proof of verification of voter registration and a seed money report to the commission during the qualifying period according to procedures developed by the commission, except as provided under subsection 11.
- 5. Certification of Maine Clean Election Act candidates. Upon receipt of a final submittal of qualifying contributions by a participating candidate, the commission or its executive director shall determine whether the candidate has:
 - A. Signed and filed a declaration of intent to participate in this Act;
 - B. Submitted the appropriate number of valid qualifying contributions;
 - C. Qualified as a candidate by petition or other means;
 - C-1. As a gubernatorial candidate, collected at least \$40,000 in seed money contributions from registered voters in the State;
 - D. Not accepted contributions, except for seed money contributions, and otherwise complied with seed money restrictions;



- D-1. Not run for the same office as a nonparticipating candidate in a primary election in the same election year;
- D-2. Not been found to have made a material false statement in a report or other document submitted to the commission;
- D-3. Not otherwise substantially violated the provisions of this chapter or chapter 13;
- D-4. Not failed to pay any civil penalty assessed by the commission under this Title, except that a candidate has 3 business days from the date of the request for certification to pay the outstanding penalty and remain eligible for certification; and
- E. Otherwise met the requirements for participation in this Act.

The commission or its executive director shall certify a candidate complying with the requirements of this section as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate as soon as possible after final submittal of qualifying contributions and other supporting documents required under subsection 4 but no later than 3 business days for legislative candidates and 5 business days for gubernatorial candidates. The commission and its executive director may take additional time if further investigation is necessary to verify compliance with this Act as long as the commission notifies the candidate regarding the anticipated schedule for conclusion of the investigation.

A certified candidate must comply with all requirements of this Act after certification and throughout the primary and general election periods. Failure to do so is a violation of this chapter.

- **5-A.** Revocation of certification. The certification of a participating candidate may be revoked at any time if the commission determines that the candidate or an agent of the candidate:
 - A. Did not submit the required number of valid qualifying contributions;
 - B. Failed to qualify as a candidate by petition or other means;
 - C. Submitted any fraudulent qualifying contributions or qualifying contributions that were not made by the named contributor;
 - D. Misrepresented to a contributor the purpose of the qualifying contribution or obtaining the contributor's signature on the receipt and acknowledgement form;
 - E. Failed to fully comply with the seed money restrictions;
 - F. Knowingly accepted any contributions, including any in-kind contributions, or used funds other than fund revenues distributed under this chapter to make campaign-related expenditures without the permission of the commission;
 - G. Knowingly made a false statement or material misrepresentation in any report or other document required to be filed under this chapter or chapter 13;
 - H. Otherwise substantially violated the provisions of this chapter or chapter 13; or
 - I. As a gubernatorial candidate, failed to properly report seed money contributions as required by this section.

INFORMATIONAL NOTE: The Commission will provide educational materials to all former candidates who have a campaign surplus describing the requirement that individuals must dispose of campaign surplus to remain eligible for participation as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

- E. Return of Contributions Not in Compliance with Seed Money Restrictions.

 A participating candidate who receives a contribution exceeding the seed money per donor restriction or the total amount restriction must immediately return the contribution and may not cash, deposit, or otherwise use the contribution.
- F. Case-by-Case Exception. A participating candidate who has accepted contributions or made expenditures that do not comply with seed money restrictions may petition the Commission to remain eligible for certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate. The Commission may approve the petition and restore a candidate's eligibility for certification if the candidate successfully establishes all of the following criteria:
 - (1) the failure to comply was the result of an unintentional error;
 - (2) the candidate immediately returned all contributions that did not comply with seed money restrictions or paid for goods or services contributed that did not comply with seed money restrictions;
 - (3) the candidate petitioned the Commission promptly upon becoming aware of the unintentional error; and
 - (4) the failure to comply did not involve expenditures by the participating candidate significantly in excess of seed money total amount restrictions or otherwise constitute systematic or significant infractions of seed money restrictions.
- G. After becoming a candidate and prior to certification, accepting a loan from any source including a financial institution and spending money received in the form of a loan, are violations of the seed money restrictions of the Act.
- H. Other. A seed money contributor may also make a qualifying contribution to the same participating candidate provided that the contributor otherwise meets the requirements for making a qualifying contribution.

4. Qualifying Contributions

A. General. A participating candidate may collect qualifying contributions only during the relevant qualifying period. Qualifying contributions collected more than five days before filing a Declaration of Intent with the Commission will not be counted toward the eligibility requirement. Qualifying contributions must be acknowledged and reported on forms provided by the Commission.

The forms must include:

- (1) the name, residential address and signature of the contributor;
- (2) an affirmation by the contributor that the contribution was made with his or her personal funds, in support of the candidate and that the contributor did not receive anything of value in exchange for his or her signature and contribution;
- (3) a clear and conspicuous statement that the candidate is collecting signatures and qualifying contributions in order to obtain public funding to finance the candidate's campaign;
- (4) the signature of the municipal registrar or his or her designee verifying the voter registration of the contributors listed on the form; and
- (5) the signature of any person, other than the candidate, who circulated the forms and collected signatures and contributions, whether the services were provided for compensation or on a volunteer basis, affirming that he or she collected the qualifying contributions, that the contributor signed the form in the circulator's presence, that to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief each signature is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be and that the contribution came from the personal funds of the contributor, that the circulator did not give anything of value to the contributor in exchange for the contribution and signature, and that the circulator did not represent the purpose of collecting the contributions and signatures to be for any purpose other than obtaining public funds to finance the candidate's campaign; the form must also include the residential and mailing addresses and telephone number of the circulator.
- B. Required Number of Qualifying Contributions. A participating candidate must obtain the number of qualifying contributions during the qualifying period as required by the Act [§1122(7); §1122(8); §1125(3)].

C. Exchanges for Qualifying Contributions Prohibited

- (1) A participating candidate or an agent of that candidate may not give or offer to give a payment, gift, or anything of value in exchange for a qualifying contribution.
- (2) This provision does not prohibit a participating candidate or that candidate's agent from collecting qualifying contributions at events where food or beverages are served, or where campaign promotional materials are distributed, provided that the food, beverage, and campaign materials are offered to all persons attending the event regardless of whether or not particular persons make a qualifying contribution to the participating candidate.

- This provision does not prohibit a candidate from using seed money to (3) pay the fee for a money order provided the qualifying contributor pays the \$5 amount reflected on the money order as permitted by 21-A M.R.S.A. §1125(3).
- Checks Drawn on Business Accounts. Qualifying contributions must be made D. with the personal funds of the contributor. The Commission will not count a check drawn from an account with a business name toward the eligibility requirements, unless the name of the contributor is included in the name of the account or the candidate submits a written statement from the contributor indicating that he or she uses the business account for personal expenses.
- Family Members. Family members, domestic partners, and live-in caregivers E. who reside in a single household may make qualifying contributions in the form of a single check or money order of more than \$5 provided that:
 - (1) all contributors sign the receipt and acknowledgement form:
 - (2) all contributors are registered to vote at the address of the household; and
 - (3) all contributions are made with the personal funds of the contributors.

F. Verification of Registered Voters

- (1) Before submitting qualifying contributions to the Commission, a participating candidate must establish that contributors who made qualifying contributions to that candidate are registered voters.
- (2) For qualifying contributions made by check or by money order, a participating candidate must obtain written verification from the Registrar of the number of persons providing qualifying contributions who are registered voters within the electoral division for the office the candidate is seeking.
- (3)For qualifying contributions made over the Internet, the Commission may establish an automated system by which the contributor can verify his or her voter registration based on data derived from the Central Voter Registration System. If the contributor is unable to verify the voter registration, the participating candidate must obtain written verification from the Registrar.
- Upon request of a participating candidate, and within 10 business days (4) after the date of the request, the Registrar must verify the names of contributors of qualifying contributions who are registered voters within the electoral division for the office the candidate is seeking.



G. **Timing of Verification**. For purposes of this chapter, the Commission will deem verification of registered voters by the Registrar at any time during the qualifying period to be an accurate verification of voter registration even if the registration status of a particular voter may have changed at the time the Commission determines certification of the participating candidate. Proof of voter verification submitted after the qualifying period will not be accepted by the Commission and those qualifying contributions will not be counted toward the number required for certification.

SECTION 3. CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES



- 1. **Request for Certification**. A participating candidate may submit a completed request for certification to the Commission at any time during the qualifying period but not later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the relevant qualifying period. The request will be deemed complete and considered for certification only when the candidate has submitted to the Commission:
 - A. the qualifying contributions attached to the corresponding original receipt and acknowledgement forms that have been verified by the Registrar(s) of the electoral division for the office the candidate is seeking;
 - B. a list of all individuals making qualifying contributions and their town or city of residence, sorted alphabetically by the contributor's last name;
 - C. for gubernatorial candidates, the following documentation for required seed money contributions as required by the Act ([1125(2-B)]: the acknowledgement forms signed by the contributors of seed money, list of seed money contributions, photocopies of checks or money orders received from seed money contributors, and bank or merchant account statements which list contributions made by credit or debit card;
 - D. a seed money report of contributions, expenditures, and obligations made or incurred after becoming a candidate, including a report of any unspent seed money; and
 - E. a signed request for certification on a form provided by the Commission which contains an affirmation by the candidate that he or she has complied with all seed money and qualifying contribution requirements, has established a separate federally-insured bank account for campaign purposes and, if applicable, that any person who circulated receipt and acknowledgement forms and collected qualifying contributions acted with the candidate's knowledge and consent, and any other information relevant to the certification process.
 - F. A candidate may request an extension of time to comply with paragraphs B, D, and E. The Commission staff shall grant all reasonable requests or state in writing the reasons for denying the request. The Commission and the Commission staff may not grant an extension of time to comply with paragraph A or C.



 Order of Review. The Commission will review candidate requests for certification in the order in which they are received, except that it will give priority to those candidates who are in a contested primary election.

- 3. **Unspent Seed Money.** In order to distribute funds expeditiously, the Commission will deduct from the initial distribution from the Fund to a certified candidate an amount equal to the amount of unspent seed money reported by that candidate.
- 4. **Certification**. The Commission will certify a candidate as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate upon the participating candidate's satisfaction of the requirements of the Act [§1125] and this chapter.
- 5. **Appeals.** Any appeals challenging a certification decision by the Commission must be in accordance with the Act [§1125(14)].

SECTION 4. FUND ADMINISTRATION

- 1. Coordination with State Agencies. The Commission will coordinate with the Office of the Controller and other relevant State agencies to ensure the use of timely and accurate information regarding the status of the Fund.
- 2. **Publication of Fund Revenue Estimates.** By September 1st preceding each election year, the Commission will publish an estimate of revenue in the Fund available for distribution to certified candidates during the upcoming year's election. The Commission will update the estimate of available revenue in the Fund after April 15th of an election year and again within 30 days after the primary election in an election year.
- 3. **Computation of Disbursement Amounts.** By July 1, 1999, and at least every 4 years after that date, the Commission will determine the amount of revenue to be distributed to certified candidates based on the type of election and office in accordance with the Act [§1125(8)].
- 4. Authorizing Contributions due to Shortfall in the Fund.
 - A. Authorization by Commission to accept contributions. If the Commission determines that the revenues in the Fund may be insufficient to make payments under section 1125 of the Act, the Commission may reduce payments of public campaign funds to certified candidates and permit them to accept and spend contributions in accordance with the Act [§1125(13)].
 - B. Limitations on permitted contributions. If permitted to accept contributions, a certified candidate may not accept a contribution in cash or in-kind from any contributor, including the candidate and the candidate's spouse or domestic partner, that exceeds \$750 per election for gubernatorial candidates and \$350 per election for State Senate and State House candidates. A candidate may not solicit or receive any funds in the form of a loan with a promise or expectation that the funds will be repaid to the contributor. If a contributor made a seed money contribution to a candidate, the amount of the seed money contribution shall count toward the contribution limit for the primary election. For a replacement candidate or candidate in a special election, a seed money contribution shall count toward the contribution limit for the election in which the candidate is running.